

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7412

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 0582

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, BR, BA, MFM

SUBJECT: BA - MFM - CUBA

REF: STATE 012745, 012503, 012402, 009023, BRASILIA 0481

AND PREVIOUS

1. IN OUR JAN 20 CONVERSATION, SILVEIRA, RESPONDING TO A PRESENTATION OF THE CURRENT ARGZNTINE IDZAS AND THEUS POSITION TOWARD TPEM BASED ON APPROPRIATE PARTS OF THE STATE REFTELS, GAVE NO RPT NO EVIDENCE OF ANY CHANGE ASIOF NOW IN THE POSITION REPORTED IN BRASILIA 126 AND 298.

2. IN LARGE PART, SILVEIRA'S REACTIONS AND ARGUMENTATIN WERE A REPETITION OF THE COMMENTS HE HAD MADE TO THE CHARGE WHEN THE ORIGINAL AR3,58,3 *94.7)- 2AS DESCRIBED TO HIM. RECOGNIZING THAT THERE WAS A CENTRAL AMBIGUITY IN THE "NEW" PROPOSAL THAT REQUIRED CLARIFICATION AND THAT THE ARGENTINES HAD NOT DECIBED UPON THE MODALITIES FOR ACHIEVING AN AGREEMENT PRIOR TO THE BA MFM, SILVEIRA WAS SKEPTICAL THAT VIGNES WOULD CONTENT HIMSELF AT BUENOS AIRES WITH A FORMAL, HIGH-LEVEL RESTATEMENT OF THE EXISTING CONSENSUS ON RIO TREATY VOTING PROCEDURES AND A PLEDGE TO VOTE FOR THEMODIFICATIONS IN THE OASGA, WITHOUT ANY ACTION AT THE OASGA ON THE 1964 RESOLUTION. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE WENT ON TO REPEAT WITH FIRMNESS HIS VIEW THAT IT WAS GIMMICKY, UNETHICAL AND DANGEROUS TO SHORT-CUT THE RATIFICATION PROCESS, STATING THA HE THOUGHT IT VERY IMPORTANT FOR COUNTRIES LIKE BRAZIL AND THE US TO PRESERVE THE
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STRUCTURE AND PROCEDURES OF TREATIES LEST THEY BE VITIATED

TO OUR EVENTUAL SORROW.

3. EXPRESSING SOME SURPRISE AT VPGNES' INTENTION TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT BEFORE BA TO THE STILL UNCLEAR SCENARIO, WHICH, NHE THOUGHTN WOULD ONLY COMPLICATE VATTERS FURTHER (AND VIGNES, HE CBMMMENTED FARCASTICALLY, WAS ALREADY "MAKING A MESS OF THINGS" AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO), SILVEIRA SAID THAT AS OF NOW HE WOULD ABSTAIN ON ALL PHASES OF THE PROPOSED PROCESS.

4. SILVEIRA DID SEEM PLEASED BUT CYNICAL ABOUT ARGENTINA'S BACKING AWAY FROM THE IDEA OF HAVING CUBA ATTEND THE BA MF. HE SAID THAT VIGNES WAS REALIZING HE HAD GONE TOO FAR AND THAT THE INTERANL EVOLUTION IN ARGENTINA WAS INDUCING HIM TO BE "CONSERVATIVE." WHEN I TOLD SILVEIRA THAT WE HAD GATHERED THAT A FACTOR IN VEGNES' CHANGE-OF-HEART HAD BEEN THE SOUNDINGS HE HAD TAKEN OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND THAT WE HAD DEDUCED THAT VIGNES CONSIDERED THAT BRAZIL WOULD NOT ATTEND IF CUBA DID, SILVEIRA SAID EMPHATICALLY THAT HE HAD NEVER SAID THAT TO VIGNES. HE ADDED THAT OBVIOUSLY VIGNES WAS SUGGESTING THAT TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO COVER HIS OWN RETREAT AND DISCOMFITURE.

5. IN A SOMWWHAT MUSING TONE, SILVEIRA SAID, NEAR THE END OF THE CONVERSATION, THAT HE BELIEVED ARGENTINA'S PURPOSE WAS TO INDUCE THE COUNTRIES SO DISPOSED TO REESTABLISH RELATIONS UNILATERALLY (ONE IMPLICATION APPARENTLY BEING THAT ARGENTINA WOULD NOT AT ALL MIND SEEING THE RIO TREATY GUTTED). INSAID THAT I THOUGHT THAT SUCH AN ASSESSMENT WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT CLARIFICATION OF THE PRESENT AMBIGUITIES IN THE ARGENTINE SCHEME.

6. I TOLD SILVEIRA THAT I WOULD KEEP IN CLOUE TOUCH WITH HIM AND WOULD PASS ON ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE EVOLUTION OF VIGNES' PROPOSAL. HE SAID THAT HE WOUPD BE SURE TO LET ME KNOW OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS ON HIS SIDE.
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